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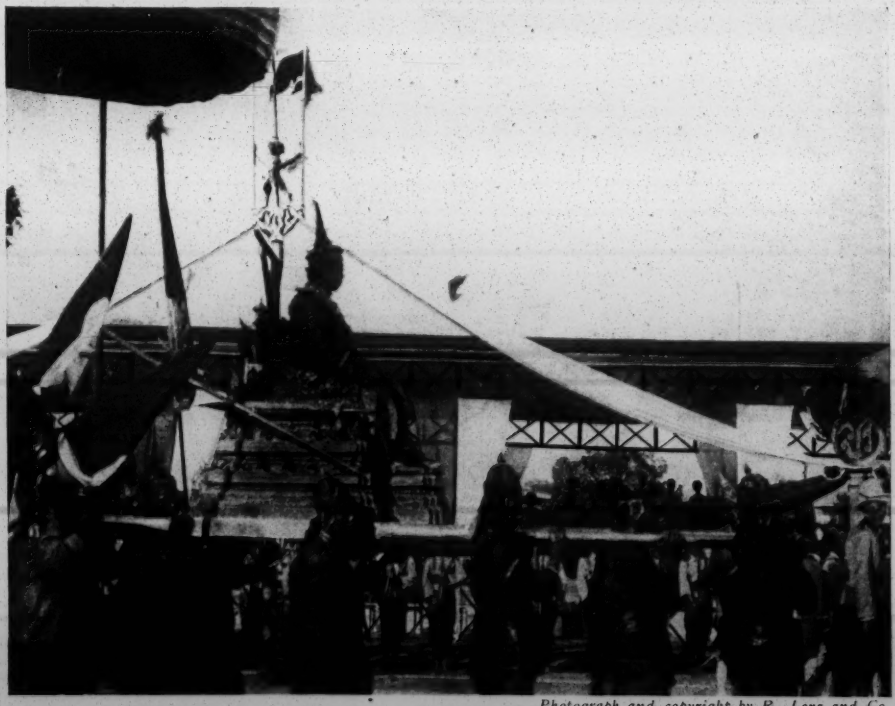

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KING OF SIAM SEATED ON GOLDEN PALANQUIN (See Bulletin No. 1)

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

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Siam: Where Elephants Have Given Way to Airplanes

NOW that Siam has announced a program of civil airplane development for carrying mails, making surveys, and even conducting medical work, Westerners will have to abandon most of the ideas that Siam's old title, "the Kingdom of the White Elephant," brought to mind.

Tucked away as this country is in southeastern Asia, far from the workaday western world, it is not generally known that it has advanced far from the conditions in force when the first pioneer travelers from Europe were charmed by its quaint customs and its semi-barbaric splendor. In reality the development of Siam along modern lines may well be likened—if the comparison is not pushed too closely—to that of Japan since Commodore Perry opened up that empire to the world. It is typical of changed conditions that a one-time elephant path in its capital is now traversed by an electric street-car line.

Bangkok the New Orleans of Siam

Physically the chief region of Siam may be compared to Lower Mesopotamia in the days when a complex system of canals connected its famous rivers. But the comparison must stop with the elaborate network of waters; for while the canals of the Tigris and Euphrates delta were primarily to supply water to the fields of the country, those connecting the Menam, Siam's chief river, with its nearby streams, are first of all highways, and have only in late years become increasingly important as sources of irrigation water. For the most part annual inundations have been depended on to water the rice crops.

The great flat delta basin of the Menam dominates the life of Siam. There are tablelands in the country, and hills and mountains. But they are but the rim which sweeps round three sides of the central plain leaving the fourth open like the broken edge of a plate to the Gulf of Siam. Into the gulf flows the Menam and a network of other streams, and near the mouth of the great waterway, dominating it as New Orleans dominates the Mississippi, is Bangkok, Siam's capital and metropolis, and one of the chief cities of the Far East.

A Country of One Crop—Rice

The great importance of the low delta country—the heart of Siam—is as a gigantic rice field. The river, like those of all alluvial countries, is higher than the plain it traverses. In the wet season it overflows its banks, making a great lake of the entire countryside for miles from the river-bed. As the floods recede the overflowed land is transformed into rice fields and in a few months has contributed its annual harvest of millions of pounds to the bread of the East. That Siam is prosperous and its people well fed is shown by the fact that the country has been a consistent exporter of hundreds of thousands of tons of rice.

To such an extent is rice the dominant crop of Siam that it may be said to be a "one-crop country" more truly than are the Southern States of America where cotton is king. Hardly anyone thinks of raising other crops, and wealth, social position, and many other phases of life are conceived of in terms of this all-

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COURT IN THE GREAT TEMPLE OF WAT CHANG

The Siamese claim that Buddhism is found in its purest form in Siam. It is the Buddhism of the Southern School, which extended through Ceylon, Burma, Siam and Indo-China, and is comparatively free from those corruptions found in the Buddhism of the Northern School, commonly called Llamaism.

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Kenya: A Colony Which Changed Its Name

COLONIES, like people, sometimes change their names, to the confusion of geographers. Kenya Colony, formerly British East Africa, is one of the latest cases in point. It has been chiefly a country of the black man, but its mercantile class is made up of East Indians, and many white British ex-service men have settled there since the World War.

His hair is the most precious heritage that can be left to his son by a man of the Suks, one of the tribes of Kenya. It is unwomanly for the Suk women to have any hair at all on their heads, but the increasing supply of hair passed down from father to son is woven into a great chignon, or coiffure, in which the current owner of the hairy mass can carry all of his valuable possessions, such as his ornaments and his snuff-box. This head-covering is the only garment which he deems necessary.

An Assortment of Peoples

The Suks belong to the Nilotic race group, which is only one of the divisions of the interesting inhabitants of this newest colony of Great Britain. We find the Swahilis, or coast folk, a hybrid race formed by the union of Arabs who have pushed into the country with the negro tribes, the Somalis and the Gallas. There also are the Bantu-speaking population, many of whom dwell in the regions around Mount Kenya, which was for a time believed to lie in the fabled region of the "Mountains of the Moon," as well as more of the Nilotic group, consisting of the Masai, the Nandi and others.

Though Kenya calls itself the newest of the British colonies, it is one of the oldest lands of the earth. Theodore Roosevelt, in speaking of his African hunting trip, said that the Masai often reminded him of the pictures of the soldiers of Thothmes and Rameses made by the ancient Egyptian sculptors, in that their faces were resolute and had clear-cut features. The same noted traveler said of this tribe that though the women were scrupulously clothed, "the husbands and brothers very ostentatiously wear no clothing for purposes of decency."

From Raiders to Farmers

Reports concerning this particular people have constantly made their appearance in the civilized world because they persistently pillaged neighboring tribes, having decided that they no longer cared to till their own fields, but would get their sustenance by taking the cattle and supplies of weaker tribes, and in this way have been responsible for the depopulation of large districts of British East Africa. Today, however, they are doing excellent work in cultivating the soil.

The greater portion of the Masai now live in the districts around Nairobi. They have perhaps the most definite religious beliefs of any of the East African tribes, praying to two gods, one black and benevolent and the other red and cruel, but they believe that when they die, they go out like a puff. Some of the Bantu tribes, however, hold to witchcraft, and the witch-doctor's business is to detect the culprit so that she—for the accused is nearly always an old woman—may be put to death.

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important grain. The only other economic activity of Siam proper that is worthy of mention beside rice culture is the teak-wood industry carried on in the forests of the north. Though the annual value of the teak exports has amounted to around $5,000,000 in recent years, it has represented only about one-tenth the value of the rice exports. In addition to the rice exported, a larger quantity is consumed in the country.

Capital Larger Than Washington

In a sense it may be said that "Bangkok is Siam" much more truly than Paris may be said to be France or Buenos Aires, Argentina. In a country of 9,000,000 inhabitants it is virtually the only city. Its population is more than half a million, so that it is roughly the size of San Francisco and is greater by nearly 100,000 than Washington. About it lie Siam's richest rice lands; to it come on the one hand boats laden with the products of the country, and on the other ocean-going vessels to unload imports and load exports; and from it, in turn, are distributed the supplies for the interior. In Bangkok the king and his court live and there is operated the machinery of the country's highly centralized government. The capital has become in the eyes of the king and his people a symbol of Siamese power, and millions of dollars have been spent to beautify it and make it in many ways a convenient, modern city, drained and cleaned, sparkling with electric lights, and with streets in which the clang of tramway gongs and the chug of motor cars are common sounds.

Siam is about the size of France. It is a tropical country lying in the same latitude with the Egyptian Sudan, southern India, the Philippines and Central America. But thanks to pleasant breezes it does not experience the extremes of heat known to the Indian plains. In Bangkok the heat during the dry season seldom exceeds 100 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade. In the sun it is, of course, much warmer and paper parasols are to be seen everywhere. For the three months, November, December and January, the nights and early mornings are crisp and cool, but the days are comfortably warm.

Little or no clothing is worn by the small children among the Siamese in Bangkok during most of the year. As the children approach school age both boys and girls don the panung, the universal garment of the country. It consists of a length of cloth wrapped about the hips, the lower edge extending about to the knees. The end of the cloth is thrust between the knees and hitched up behind, so forming a loose knickerbocker type of garment. The coolies often wear nothing above the waist, but the costume is completed for others by the addition of a jacket for women and a European type coat for men. Many of the young girls and women wear above the panung bright colored scarfs wrapped about the breast.

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Lisbon: Picture City of Portugal

MOST of the events in the recent threatened break-down of the Portuguese Republic, which now seems to have been averted, took place in Lisbon. Most of Portugal's history in recent decades, in fact, has been written in that often turbulent capital.

This port of Portugal, which has very aptly been called the kernel of the country, saw the commercial pride of the Phoenicians and heard the fervent prayers of Vasco da Gama before he set out on his perilous voyage in search of India, the land which had lured navigators for centuries.

Lisbon's ancient name was Ulisipo, which caused many Greek scholars to try to connect it with the wanderings of Ulysses, but the name probably originated from two Phoenician words meaning Pleasant Bay, which is made doubly plausible because the mouth of the Tagus just beyond the city widens into one of the best harbors in the whole of Europe.

A Mosaic of Conquests

The Romans knew Lisbon as Felicitas Julia, and it grew to be the second city in Lusitania, that famous district of Hispania in the time of the Caesars. Its temple and theater ruins attest its occupation. Successively it has been seized by the Alans, the Visigoths, the Moors, and the Crusaders. The fact that the inhabitants of Lisbon were tolerant of the dark Moorish invaders is evidenced in the coloring of the crowds in the Lisbon streets today. The kindly influence of the English Crusaders who mingled with the Portuguese masses left its mark, too, and has shown itself in the friendly relations that have, practically ever since, existed between the two nations.

Men of letters have sought out the city for its individuality and beauty, which caused the ecstatic Byron upon first beholding from the bay its terraced seven hills to exclaim:

> What beauties doth Lisboa first unfold!
> Her image floating on that noble tide
> Which poets vainly pave with sands of gold.

Commercially the city has natural advantages in its harbor, which can accommodate the largest vessels, and a propitious position on the Atlantic. At present its trade is confined chiefly to exporting cork, wine, olive oil and tropical fruits to, and importing coal, wood, corn, rice, and manufactured articles from, England, Brazil and its own African colonies.

A Medley Scene

Along the Tagus vegetables, fruits and flowers are piled in high heaps to tempt the eager marketers, boats of every description from the dingy little fishing smack to the ladylike Atlantic liner are loading and unloading their cargoes, and the fish peddlers who are to be seen everywhere in the Lisbon streets are raucously bargaining for their stock in trade with the fishermen along the wharves.

Then house above house in ever-ascending terraces the city proper rises above the water front, its white buildings gleaming in the sunlight. In the hills

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Cow Ate Sacred Book

The Gallas, though they are now of little importance either politically or economically, take great pride in their past. They say that they once had a sacred book, like the Bible or the Koran, but a cow ate it, and not being certain about the particular animal, in their search they are still opening the stomach of every cow that dies.

The most effective weapon of the Masai and Andorobo is the arrow which they poison with the Acocanthera schimperi, a small tree. They boil the leaves and branches until the mixture becomes thick and pitch-like in appearance, and place it on sheets of bark which they hide high on the branches of trees away from the children, until it is needed. When an animal is shot with an arrow dipped in the poison, it dies almost immediately. The natives cut out the flesh around the wound as soon as possible and throw it away. The remainder is eaten and the blood is drunk. This love of blood as an article of food is common among many African tribes, several of them going so far as to bleed their cattle and drink the blood hot or mix it with their porridge.

The mixed breed known as Swahilis, who live along the coast of the mainland and among the thousand-and-one representatives of other peoples of the world to be found in Zanzibar, have one claim to prominence among Kenya tribes—their language is the one in common use in the Colony. If one speaks Swahili he can find someone to converse with him from Natal to Aden and from Mombasa to the Congo.

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The New Map of Asia

MORE than one-half the human race lives in Asia, which has an area nearly six times as large as continental United States, approximately one-third of the earth's entire land surface.

Asia has the world's highest peak, Mt. Everest, 29,140 feet, and the ocean's deepest pit, off the coast of Mindanao, in the Philippines, 32,088 feet. Somewhere within its borders was probably the birthplace of man, and from those fastnesses within the shadow of its Himalayas doubtless began the migrations which resulted in the peopling of all the continents and all the islands of the seas. It is a land of teeming millions of men and of vast solitudes.

There are twelve rivers on the earth's surface which exceed 2,500 miles in length, and of these six rise in and flow through Asia.

Nearly Links Pole and Equator

The continent extends from Cape Chelyuskin, within twelve and a half degrees of the North Pole, to the Malay Peninsula, within one and a half degrees of the Equator; and from the Strait of Bab el Mandeb, separating Arabia from Africa, to the Bering Strait, separating Siberia from Alaska, is 6,700 miles—more than a fourth of the circumference of the globe.

To the casual observer, the National Geographic Society's New Map of Asia may not present an appearance radically different from that of pre-war Asia; and yet the world conflict on the fields of Europe has wrought vast changes here, resulting in the dismemberment of a great empire, which had come down from medieval times, the creation of five new nations, the provisional creation of four others, and the possible evolution of half a score of semi-independent states.

While, with the exception of the Turks, none of the ancient peoples of Asia participated in the World War to the same extent as European and American peoples, there were fewer neutral governments in the Orient than in Europe; for Siberia, as a part of Russia; India, Burma, and the Suzerain States which cluster on the slopes of the Himalayas, as parts of the British Empire; Indo-China, as a part of the French Colonial Empire; Persia, as a battleground for contending armies; Arabia, China, Japan, and Siam in their own right—all were involved in the struggle.

Only Two Lands Not Touched by War

Strictly speaking, Afghanistan and Mongolia alone of all Asia's vast dominions were untouched politically by the World War; and even these two nations were not wholly divorced from it, but were affected indirectly as Mongolia from 1913 to 1919 was under the protection and guidance of Russia, and Britain's influence was paramount at the court of the Amir of Afghanistan.

As an ally of the Germans, Turkey by her defeat has lost not only most of her territory in Europe, but has been forced to surrender extensive and populous portions of her Asiatic empire, out of which have been set up the "independent states" of Syria, Irak, Palestine, Hedjaz, and Armenia and the autonomous province of Kurdistan.

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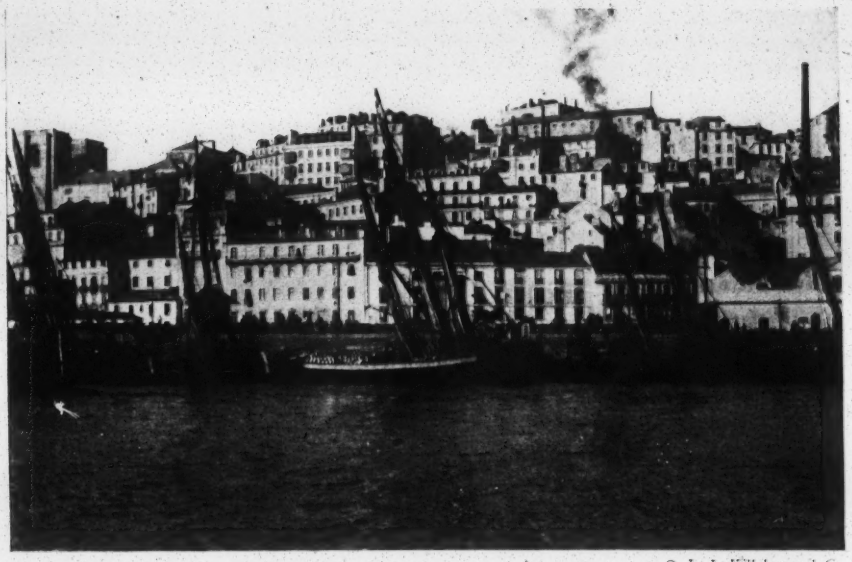
near the city there is a limestone as white and soft as chalk which becomes hard upon exposure and this has largely been used as building material. Many of the buildings are faced with colored tiles, and others are washed pink or blue, but there is a softness in the general impression nevertheless which is very pleasing. The old tiled roofs which are warped and curving, with their grass-grown furrows, are delightful.

The houses and streets in the greater part of the city present a spick and span appearance, but some of the older portions of the city are not only rustic in appearance, but are dirty. Morning and evening the milkman drives his cows through the streets and satisfies the housewife's mind that his wares are fresh by milking her pail full while she waits. One ardent civic improvement enthusiast as late as 1835 put up a plea that the inhabitants be forbidden to break their horses, to kill or singe their pigs in the streets or to tie them to their doorknobs.

King Dines as City Riots

The government houses are in the Praca do Commercio around Black Horse Square, nicknamed from an equestrian statue of King Joseph, which opens out toward the water. Rolling Motion Square, so called from the wavy mosaic of its pavement, is the business district. West from the center of the city stands the Palace of the Necessidades, where on a night in October, 1910, King Manoel II entertained a gay party of Brazilians at his last meal in his realm. While the dinner was at its height word was brought to him that revolution had broken out. He went calmly on with the dinner, scribbling on a menu card that the courses of the meal were to be served as expeditiously as possible, and not until the shells struck the palace walls did he rise from the table.

Lisbon has one possession of which any city could be proud. It is the monastery of San Jeronymo which, in the beauty of its marbles, porphyry, jasper, jade, lapis lazuli, its mosaics, and its inlays, is said to be unexcelled except by the Sistine Chapel in Rome.



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LISBON, FROM THE HARBOR OF TAGUS

Before the World War Portugal's capital and Washington were about equal in population. Some travelers rank Lisbon as the most beautiful city in Europe except Constantinople and Naples.

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Esthonia: Football of Northern Europe

WORLD attention has been focused so closely upon storm centers of Central and Southern Europe that comparatively little has been heard of the new nations carved from Russia along the Baltic Sea. Just now, however, Esthonia is attracting attention because it is planning to put into effect a law making all agricultural land national property which will be rented in small plots to farmers.

Much has been written of the oppressions of other subject peoples. The Esthonians might well claim to be the peers of any national sufferers since medieval times because they have been sore beset both by Germans and Russians.

Beset by Russians and Germans

From the eighties of the last century until the World War period Esthonia bore the double yoke of Tsarist laws administered by German officials. As one writer exclaims, "Heaven preserve us from Russian law as interpreted by Germans! The Russian official may not take a Russian law very seriously, but one can be sure that the German officials will."

One must go far back into Esthonian history to trace the origin of this duplicate despotism. And to the student of human geography the emergence to a sudden independence of a people so long submerged will make an experiment worth watching.

The Esths are an aboriginal people of northern Europe who once terrorized the Baltic by piracy, and later clashed often with Swedes and Danes.

Tradition has it that the oldest flag of Europe, that of Denmark, dates from 1219 when the Danish Waldemar II, who may be likened to Alfred the Great, was conducting a campaign to subdue Esthonia. A great silver cross appeared against a fiery background in the Heavens as an omen of success. This same Waldemar, in the same year, founded the town of Reval, now capital and seaport of Esthonia.

Conquest in Guise of Conversion

Few nations can show so consistent a record of conquest under the guise of conversion as the Esthonians. The Danes came to baptize them at the point of the sword; then entered the Knights of the Sword, coming in the rôle of the Crusaders and remaining for some six centuries as overlords. During the long era of German ascendancy the country became thoroughly Protestant.

Within the past half century the Russians undertook strenuous methods to gather the Esths into the fold of their Orthodox church. Long experience taught these people the wisdom of accepting "conversion" and then returning to their fold. But when they tried this expedient after the visits of Russian priests they found it a civil crime to withdraw from the Russian church after having entered it. Moreover, for a Protestant clergyman to marry a man or woman who belonged to the Russian church was punishable by imprisonment.

The rugged endurance of this northern people, their vitality and spirit, are sufficiently shown by their bearing up under oppression that was both religious and political, and from the political standpoint both Prussian and Russian. Perhaps their Mongolic descent helps account for that.

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France assumed a guardianship (mandate) over Syria, and Britain exercises a similar office toward Palestine and Mesopotamia until such time as the three countries can be entrusted with their own affairs. Armenia, though created a separate state by the Treaty of Sèvres (the Turkish treaty), has not as yet had her boundaries definitely delimited.

According to that treaty Greece will administer a large and prosperous district surrounding Smyrna, the most important port of Asia Minor, for five years, at the end of which time a plebiscite will be held to determine whether the inhabitants wish the area to be incorporated permanently as a part of Greece or resume its former status as a part of Turkey in Asia.

The Kingdom of Hedjaz, over which rules Husein Ibn Ali, Hereditary Keeper of the Holy Places (Mecca and Medina), extends along the northeast shore of the Red Sea, from the principate of Asir to the southwestern frontier of Palestine. It has an area about equal in extent to that of the State of Colorado and a population of some 750,000. Its capital and chief seaport is Jidda, a town of 30,000 inhabitants.

Of that vast territory formerly known as Russia in Asia, embracing Siberia, Transcaucasia, Turkestan, and the Steppes provinces, aggregating an area of more than 6,290,000 square miles (more than three times as large as Russia in Europe), but sustaining a population of only twenty-seven millions—barely four persons to the square mile—little can as yet be said with respect to its political future, and even the reports concerning its present status are vague and contradictory.

Three Republics Had Short Lives

Out of Transcaucasia three republics evolved—Azerbaijan, Georgia, and, in part, Armenia. Their existence was tempestuous and short-lived. Whether, when the tide of Bolshevism recedes, they will be able to establish their interdependence as a Transcaucasus governmental trilogy none can say.

The transfer of German treaty rights in the Chinese province of Shantung (Kiaochow and Tsingtao) to Japan is a *cause célèbre* of recent diplomatic history.

In addition to her acquisition of the Kiaochow leased district, Japan's gains from the World War include mandates for the formerly German-owned Marshall Archipelago, the Marianas or Ladrone Islands, the Pelew Group, and the Carolines, including the much-discussed Island of Yap, important from an American standpoint as a connecting link for cables between San Francisco, Hawaii, Guam, the Philippines, China, and the Dutch East Indies.

Nations and Nature Unkind

Before the World War Esthonia was accounted one of the most progressive regions, agriculturally, in Russia. Nature is scarcely kinder to the Esths than nations. They live in a low, swampy country, nowhere as high above the sea level as the base to top height of the Washington Monument. Their summers are hot; their winters cold.

The people have an especial love for song, are industrious and progressive, and their struggle to gain a livelihood from the soil rather than a lack of enterprise accounts for the fact that some of their smaller villages have been described as being among the most nondescript and least lovely in all Europe.

It should be noted that the free Esthonia recognized by many European governments comprises more than the old Russian Esthonia. A part of Livonia is included in the new state, while the southern part of Livonia, along with Courland, goes to make up Latvia. The Esthonians and the Letts have less in common than one might expect of two neighbor peoples who have suffered for centuries the same slings of outrageous national fortune.

Reval Member of First Big Trust

Reval, busy seaport city, betrays its German influence, and has been described by some visitors as akin to a medieval German town. It has had a commanding position in commerce since it was one of the 85 city members of the first giant trust, the Hanseatic League. But it has Russian hall marks, notably the Tower of St. Olaf, one of the tallest in Russia, which would o'ertop the Times Building in New York.

Dorpat is the Cambridge of Esthonia—perhaps the Heidelberg of Esthonia would be the better appellation, since Dorpat was a seat of German influence. The University of Dorpat was founded by Gustavus Adolphus twelve years after the Pilgrims set foot on Plymouth Rock and more than a century before the next oldest university in prewar Russia, that at Moscow.

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Photograph by A. Frankl. *© National Geographic Society.*

ESTHONIAN NURSES AND THEIR CONVALESCENT PATIENTS AT A TYPHUS HOSPITAL

(See Bulletin No. 5)

A Republican form of government was set up in February, 1918, by Esthonia, one of the three Baltic States which emerged from war-torn Russia.